

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-384 (Sub-No. 1X)

DELTA SOUTHERN RAILROAD, INC.–ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION– BETWEEN
LAKE VILLAGE, AR, AND SHELburn, LA

Decided: June 17, 2004

Delta Southern Railroad, Inc. (DSR), filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F-Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 30.0-mile portion of its Lake Providence Line, between milepost 433.0, near Lake Village, AR, and milepost 463.0, near Shelburn, LA. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on June 10, 2004 (69 FR 32657-58). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on July 10, 2004.

By letter filed on June 8, 2004, DSR asks that this proceeding be held in abeyance for 90 day to permit the parties to “negotiate for a settlement that might result in the withdrawal of the proposed abandonment.” The letter states that counsel for potential opposing parties indicate that their clients support DSR’s request.

The request to hold the proceeding in abeyance for 90 days, to permit negotiation for a settlement, is reasonable and will be granted. All filing deadlines (except the deadline for filing environmental comments) will be suspended and will be reset at a later date if the abandonment proposal is not withdrawn. Similarly, the exemption will not take effect, as originally scheduled, on July 10, 2004. A new effective date, if appropriate, will be established at a later date. The parties are directed to notify the Board as to the status of the negotiations within 60 days of the service date of this decision.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding will be held in abeyance to permit negotiations until September 15, 2004. The filing dates (except the deadline for filing environmental comments) and the effective date of the exemption authorizing the abandonment are held in abeyance pending further order by the Board.
2. The parties will report to the Board on the status of the negotiations no later than August 16, 2004.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary